

Comments on USSR Area Program

1. Yes. Whether information be new or merely "refresher" it stimulates the analyst and enables him to have a better understanding of the problem before him and enables him to exercise more accurate judgment.

2. Yes. I needed a refresher in historical background of Soviet government and had little or no background in the development of the Communist Party.

3. a) Relevant; but there was too much emphasis on history and not enough on present government, party politics and economic planning.

b) I would have preferred concentration of lectures on history, on politics, on economics - devoting lectures to each over a two-week period rather than alternate daily lectures on each. Manner and method of presentation was generally satisfactory. Presentation was probably awkward for the Instructors as they had both elementary and advanced personnel attending the lectures. Since the group for USSR was relatively small no attempt was made to divide the group into two sections as originally announced. Because discussions for the elementary became tedious to the advanced, attendance diminished visibly. Furthermore I do not think that the program of lectures verbally announced was covered and participants became discouraged.

c) No. of weeks - adequate  
Two-hour sessions - satisfactory

d) More daily discussions for advanced groups with discussion initiated by the participants rather than by the instructor asking questions. Lectures only for the elementary groups. I would favor having certain periods devoted entirely to discussion of problems selected by the participants whether the group be advanced and/or elementary.

4. I approve the policy that students not be required to do collateral reading or prepare papers. I think everyone did some reading from the Bibliography given us prior to the course.

Additional Remarks:

I appreciated the opportunity of participating in the USSR area program. I feel that I benefited by it. It would have been more gratifying to me had more personnel attended the classes. I think too that the Instructors might have been more stimulated to give an even better course than they did. Three of the four instructors that we had expressed disappointment in the very small attendance.



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